

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
PA-02 PRS-01 FEA-01 /120 W
-----030249Z 096900 /66

R 021838Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3314
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS IN CANADA

UNCLAS OTTAWA 03302

PASS WHITE HOUSE/SCHLESINGER, FEA AND FPC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, CA
SUBJECT: ENERGY: GOC APPOINTS BASIL ROBINSON AS NORTHERN
PIPELINE COMMISSIONER

REF: (A) OTTAWA 3226, (B) OTTAWA 468

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NEWS RELEASE ANNOUNCING
ROBINSON'S APPOINTMENT WHICH WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL A:

BEGIN TEXT: THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED TODAY THE
APPOINTMENT OF MR. BASIL ROBINSON AS NORTHERN PIPELINE
COMMISSIONER. MR. ROBINSON WILL REPORT TO THE PRIME
MINISTER AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-ORDINATING ALL
ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE NEED FOR A NORTHERN GAS
PIPELINE, THE CHOICES OPEN TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE
ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF EACH. HE WILL ASSIST THE
GOVERNMENT IN ASSIMILATING THE EXISTING ANALYSES CARRIED
OUT BY THE DEPARTMENTS, THE REPORTS OF THE BERGER COM-
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MISSION, THE U.S. FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION, THE NATIONAL
ENERGY BOARD AND THE TWO PANELS OPERATING IN THE YUKON.
MR. ROBINSON'S ROLE WILL BE TO ENSURE THE CABINET HAS
BEFORE IT ALL THE ANALYSIS AND ADVICE REQUIRED TO TAKE A
DECISION WHICH ACCORDS WITH THE BROAD NATIONAL INTEREST.

MR. ROBINSON WILL NOT REPLACE THE ON-GOING WORK IN THE

MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WITH THIS ISSUE, AND THESE DEPARTMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT FOR OUTSIDE GROUPS TO MAKE THEIR POINT OF VIEW KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT.

DURING PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT CARTER ANNOUNCED THAT JAMES SCHLESINGER, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT, WOULD CO-ORDINATE THE U.S. POSITION ON THE NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE: MR. ROBINSON WILL CONSULT CLOSELY WITH MR. SCHLESINGER AND HIS OFFICIALS.

MR. ROBINSON IS AT PRESENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; HE WILL BE LEAVING THIS POSITION VERY SHORTLY TO SPEND FULL TIME IN HIS NEW ROLE AS NORTHERN PIPELINE COMMISSIONER. HE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND HAS HAD A LONG CAREER IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE. END TEXT

2. REFTTEL B CONTAINS MOST RECENT BIOGRAPHIC UPDATE ON ROBINSON. ENDERS

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